



### **Western New York's Top "Energy Detectives" Announced**

(March 31, 2011) Williamsville, N.Y.: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation ("National Fuel"), the Buffalo Sabres ("Sabres") and the National Energy Education Development Project ("NEED") are pleased to name Depew Middle School the School of the Year in New York State for promoting energy efficiency in their school and community. Two Depew Middle sixth grade students were also named Western New York's top Energy Detectives of the Year.

Buffalo Sabre Derek Roy joined Sabres mascot Sabretooth in congratulating Kaitlyn Biggs and Joshua Bleasdale as the NEED program's top students in the Energy Detectives curriculum. A pizza party featuring hands-on conservation and energy efficiency experiments was followed by a sixth grade assembly featuring the Buffalo Sabres representatives. The top Energy Detectives each received an autographed Sabres' hockey stick and baseball caps. Their science teacher Barbara DeMarco was recognized for her participation in the classroom program for the past three years and for serving as an energy advocate within her school.

The Energy Detectives Program includes hands-on classroom materials and take-home kits that make it possible for participating students and their families to learn about energy efficiency while adopting conservation measures. Materials provided to students and their families include: information on National Fuel's Conservation Incentive Program (CIP), energy efficiency tip brochures, electric outlet and switch draft stoppers, window insulation kits, weather strip caulking cords, faucet aerators, water-saving showerheads and other tools. In addition to energy-saving classroom materials and kits, a formal structure for students is created by integrating classroom lessons and activities with energy education and community outreach projects. Todd Rogers, Certified Energy Manager Northeast Coordinator, worked with the Depew Middle School students

Sixth graders Kaitlyn and Joshua were acknowledged for serving as exemplary role models in energy conservation. Not only did both incorporate the home energy kits into their families' daily living, they have encouraged, and insisted, that their homes reduce, reuse and recycle many household products including paper, glass, and bottles while regularly replacing regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

As part of National Fuel's CIP, National Fuel, the Sabres and NEED have partnered to offer a no-cost, innovative program for fifth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers through National Fuel's New York service territory to help their students to become Energy Detectives by learning about energy efficiency, conservation and energy sources. Since 2008, the Energy Detectives Program has involved nearly 27,000 students and more than 270 teachers from across National Fuel's service territory.

## 2-2-2/Energy Detectives

The Sabres' Green Team helps hockey fans and environmentally-concerned individuals alike reduce their environmental footprints while educating them on conservation issues, providing them conservation tips to promote cost-effective energy use and directing them to additional resources where they can learn more about the environment, current issues and current events within their communities. To date, the Green Team has more than 5,500 members.

The mission of NEED is to promote an energy conscious and educated society by creating effective networks of students, educators, business, government and community leaders to design and deliver objective, multi-sided energy education programs. NEED works with energy companies, agencies and organizations to bring balanced energy programs to the nation's schools with a focus on strong teacher professional development, timely and balanced curriculum materials, signature program capabilities and turn-key program management. To learn more about NEED, visit [www.need.org](http://www.need.org).

National Fuel's CIP was approved by the New York State Public Service Commission in September 2007 and, in addition to the Energy Detectives Program, includes free weatherization services for low-income customers and rebates for residential and non-residential customers for purchasing high-efficiency natural gas equipment. Since its inception, CIP has provided more than \$5 million in weatherization improvements for 1,500 low-income customers across western New York with an expectation that more than 2,700 homes will be completed by the end of 2011. The CIP has funded nearly 35,000 residential furnace and water heater rebates and equipment rebates to more than 900 commercial customers. Each of these rebates helps to drive down individual and combined natural gas usage in National Fuel's service area. For more information about the program, its consumer rebates for high efficient natural gas appliances and equipment along with useful energy efficiency tips and a home energy analysis tool, visit [www.NationalFuelForThought.com](http://www.NationalFuelForThought.com).

National Fuel is an integrated energy company with \$5 billion in assets comprised of the following four operating segments: Exploration and Production, Pipeline and Storage, Utility and Energy Marketing. Additional information about National Fuel is available on its website: <http://www.nationalfuelgas.com> or through its investor information service at 1-800-334-2188.

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